

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-12 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCI-06 GAC-01 SCEM-02 AEC-11

DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 EB-11 RSR-01 /129 W

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R 052338 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 813

INFO AEC GERMANTOWN MD

UNCLAS OTTAWA 0824

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: TECH, CA

SUBJECT: SAFETY OF AMERICAN POWER REACTORS

1. MINISTER OF ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES DONALD MACDONALD WAS ASKED QUESTION IN HOUSE, APRIL 5 CONCERNING PROPOSED NUCLEAR POWER REACTOR ON STODDART ISLAND OFF THE COAST OF NOVA SCOTIA. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIVE PART OF QUESTION WAS: " IS THE MINISTER SATISFIED THAT THE REASON FOR THEIR COMING TO NOVA SCOTIA IS LEGAL DIFFICULTIES IN THE U. S., AND ARE THE SAFETY REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE BUILDING OF A PLANT OF THIS MAGNITUDE BEING MET BY THE DEVELOPERS?" MINISTER REPLIED TO THE EFFECT THAT HE HAD NOT HAD ANY DISCUSSIONS ON MATTER RECENTLY AND THAT ATOMIC ENERGY CONTROL BOARD HAD JURISDICTION. WITH SOMEWHAT UNFORTUANTE CHOICE OF WORDS, HE CONCLUDED " THE BOARD HAS EXPRESSED ITS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE SAFETY OF THE AMERICAN- TYPE REACTOR. ON THAT BASIS AND USING THE QUESTION OF THE HONORABLE GENTLEMAN, I MIGHT TELL INTERESTED PARTIES THAT THE BOARD WOULD HAVE TO BE SATISFIED ABOUT THE SAFETY OF THE REACTOR."

2. ALTHOUGH IT IS PROBABLY UNLIKELY THAT ABOVE EXCHANGE WOULD BE PICKED UP BY AMERICAN OR INTERNATIONAL PRESS, DEPARTMENT AND AEC SHOULD KNOW THAT AECB HAS NOT REPEAT UNCLASSIFIED

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NOT MADE FINDING OR OTHERWISE EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE SAFETY OF AMERICAN- TYPE REACTORS ON STODDART ISLAND OR ELSEWHERE. WHAT AECB HAS DONE IS INFORMALLY OBSERVE THAT IT WOULD WANT TO EXAMINE MOST CAREFULLY THE APPLICATION TO BUILD ANY REPEAT ANY NUCLEAR POWER STATION ON STODDART ISLAND BECAUSE OF ITS BEING AN ISLAND, ITS GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION, AND ASSOCIATED OVERALL PROBLEMS OF POWER TRANSMISSION FROM SUCH A STATION TO MAINLAND GRIDS. BOARD'S OBSERVATION APPLIES EQUALLY TO CANADIAN OR AMERICAN- TYPE REACTOR AT THAT LOCATION. (ABOVE RE- CONFIRMED WITH AECB, APRIL 5.)

3. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED IF DEPT OR USAEC FIND THAT ABOVE ITEM IS IN FACT PICKED UP AND USED BY NEWS MEDIA.
SCHMIDT

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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